

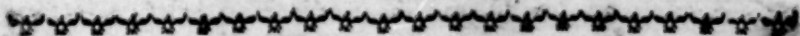
A

L E T T E R

To the AUTHOR of a LETTER

T O

John Buxton, Esq; of *Shadwell*.



[Price SIX-PENCE.]



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# LETTER

To the AUTHOR of a LETTER

T O

John Buxton, Esq; of Shadwell,

On the Contests relative to the ensuing Election  
for the County of

N O R F O L K.

*Non Equidem hoc Studeo, bullatis ut mihi nugis  
Pagina turgescat, dare Pondus idonea fumo.*

PERS.

PRINTED IN THE YEAR M DCC LXVIII.







A  
L E T T E R

T O

The AUTHOR of a LETTER, &c.

S I R,

**A**S your letter to Mr. Buxton glanceth  
on every freeholder of this County,  
who intends at the approaching election to  
oppose those candidates whose interest you  
espouse, you will not be offended if I, who  
shall be one of those opponents, take the  
liberty of answering it.

You

You begin with accusing Mr. Buxton and his associates of promoting idleness and debauchery, destroying of society, alienating friendships, &c. &c. I hope you have exaggerated the evils of a contested election ; but suppose you have not, must we, in order to keep off some inconveniencies of a private nature, be tyed from exerting ourselves in the choice of such members as we think most likely to promote the honour, and happiness of our country ? Again ; as there can be no contest without opposition, and since your party is equally concerned in the opposition with us, I should gladly be informed why your party is not equally blameable with us, if, indeed, there be any blame in either party. You, I know,

know, are ready to tell me that, since the conduct of the present members is irreproachable, the contest and its consequences are solely to be imputed to those by whom these members are opposed. I answer: you are guilty of that wretched sophism called begging the question. We have told you that we are displeased with the conduct of our present members, and that we therefore intend to change them for others whom we like better. What our objection is you very well know, as you have attempted to defend them. How much the gentlemen are obliged to you will be seen in the sequel.

In the fifth page of your letter, you very acutely distinguish between ends and motives.

motives. "When the motives, say you,  
 " to an action are thus trifling, it cannot  
 " be expected that the ends proposed  
 " should be of greater moment." I  
 frankly confess that I can perceive no  
 difference between ends and motives. Tell  
 me, Sir, what is the end of eating? I  
 suppose you will answer: the preservation  
 of life and health. Be pleased now to  
 tell me, what is the motive to eating?  
 I suppose you will answer: the preservation  
 of life and health. Now, Sir, doth it not  
 seem to follow from hence, that the end  
 and the motive are the same? Or you  
 may argue thus: the end is that for  
 which we act, that for which we act  
 moveth us to act; that which moveth us  
 to



to act, is the motive; therefore the end and the motive are the same. These being proved to be the same, it followeth that, whatsoever superstructure you have raised on the supposition that they are different, vanisheth *like the baseless fabrick of a vision.*

I now proceed to examine your remarks on Sir William Harbord's speech, made in St. Andrew's hall. Sir William did, it seems, offer two objections against the re-election of the present members. He objected, in the first place, to their profession, which is military. He doth not think it safe to trust his liberties to gentlemen who wear swords. You, Sir, oppose this objection, by quoting part

B

of

of the address of the Irish House of Commons to their new Lord Lieutenant. "When we reflect, say they, on the important Services, and great military experience of your Excellency for many years in different parts of the globe, and on your happy success in raising the fame, and extending the dominions of Great Britain, &c."

A Viceroy, Sir, is a soldier by profession; it was therefore natural for the Irish House of Commons to be highly delighted with the great military abilities of their new Lord Lieutenant; to the exertion of which, they might, one day, owe their liberties and their lives: But we are by no means to conclude that these  
commons

commons would be pleased, or even not offended at discovering the same abilities in a member of their own house. A fine ear in a musician is deemed an excellency, but who would value a fine ear in a lawyer, or theologist? From hence it appears that your Irish argument is altogether impertinent and void of force. We will next enquire whether you have opposed Sir William Harbord's second objection with better success.

But, say you, Sir William Harbord's capital objection to Sir Armine is, "that, " he has served in Parliament too " long, that an honour of this nature " should not be hereditary in the " family," to which objection you thus answer: *Yes, Sir, honour, we know, has*



*been hereditary in that family for near seven hundred years.* Hold, Sir, what for near seven hundred years? It is incredible, it is impossible. However, for once let us suppose that you speak truth: And that the honour of representing this County in Parliament, has been hereditary in the Wodehouse family for near seven hundred years: Will you infer from hence that it ought to be hereditary in the same family for seven hundred years to come? Surely it will be more reasonable to conclude, with Sir William Harbord, that it is high time to transfer this honour to some other family;

You



You proceed, in the next place, to blame Sir Edward Aftley, “ for not  
 “ pursuing his declared intentions of  
 “ offering himself a Candidate at the  
 “ death of the late Lord Townshend,  
 “ had he done this, say you, it is probably  
 “ he would not have been opposed,” we  
 allow it probable that Sir Edward would  
 not have been opposed; but we add that  
 Sir Edward Aftley did not choose to  
 obtain a seat in Parliament by the interest  
 of men, whose conduct with regard to  
 the resolution proposed on February 14,  
 1764, was so disagreeable to his own  
 sentiments. This conduct of his quon-  
 dam friends was too recent in his memory.  
 Be pleased therefore to observe that we  
 do

do not say Lord Townshend refused to support Sir Edward Astley; but we say that Sir Edward Astley refused to be supported by Lord Townshend.

Nor do we accuse Sir Armine Wodehouse of deserting his old friend at this juncture. We do not believe that the friendship of Sir Armine Wodehouse was solicited at this time. However, we do not deny that Sir Armine might catch at an opportunity of making a tender of friendship to Sir Edward Astley, but we do not believe that this tender was accepted by Sir Edward: In which belief we are confirmed by your utter silence with regard to promises made by Sir Edward Astley,

some

some of which we should certainly have heard of, if these two gentlemen had entered into a league of mutual friendship. You do not tell us that Sir Edward Astley promised to join Sir Armine Wodehouse at the next general Election, or even promised to promote his re-election. Indeed, Sir Edward Astley could not, consistently with his principles, make any such promises to Sir Armine Wodehouse, whose conduct on a late memorable occasion he could not but highly blame. And this, Sir, is the reason why Sir Edward Astley, after he had determined to offer himself a Candidate, did not, as you truly observe, shew the least inclination

clination to join Sir Armine Wodehouse. But, say you, Sir Edward offered to join Sir Armine about a quarter of an hour before they went to the hall. I suspect the truth of this fact. However, if it be true, we may account for it by supposing a little waggery in the case. Be that as it will, whosoever views attentively the circumstances of affairs at that time, must see, as clear as the day, that it was absolutely impossible for Sir Edward to be in earnest, or for Sir Armine to think him so.

You now undertake the vindication of Sir Armine's behaviour with regard to



to general warrants, but how do you vindicate it? Why truly, by producing an argument which has more than once been seen, and answered in the *Norwich Mercury*. Surely, Sir, you would have acted more agreeably with sense and candour, if, instead of repeating this stale argument, you had told us why you do not think our answer satisfactory. Sufficeth it for the present, to tell you that, so long as our answer remains untouched by you, it will retain with us its force.

That the Gentlemen, who opposed the resolution, did not vote in favour of general warrants is (you say) evident, “ from their moving that their illegality

C

“ might

“ might be declared in the only way that  
 “ could be safe, effectual, and constitu-  
 “ tional, viz. by act of parliament;” and ac-  
 cordingly you inform us that “ on the  
 “ 21st of February, a motion was made  
 “ by Sir John Philips, that leave be  
 “ given to bring in a bill for regulating  
 “ the practice of the Secretary of State’s  
 “ office, in issuing out warrants in case of  
 “ libels?”

But, in the name of common sense,  
 what occasion for an act of parliament  
 to make that illegal which is not warrant-  
 ed by law? In truth the thing is ab-  
 solutely impossible: there is, I say, no  
 power in the universe able to make  
 that illegal, which is not warranted  
 by law. Whiteness can as soon be  
 made

made white. From hence it evidently follows, that if the Legislature should pass an act to make general warrants illegal, they would, *ipso facto*, declare them to have been legal. Now, what a disgrace would such a declaration bring upon our antient boasted constitution? After passing such an act, what would the world think of old English Liberty? Would it not become the laughing-stock of nations? Oh! my beloved Country,

*Quid de Te Sparte poterit, quid Achaia  
tota,*

*Quid gentes Asiae, quid tua Troja loqui?*

You now desire to end your letter as you began it, viz. by lamenting the evils attending party contests; you moreover

over tell Mr. Buxton that by deserting his old friends, he has deserted the cause of honour and virtue. Which accusation you can no otherwise support, than by alledging, that the love of his country glows in Mr. Buxton's breast with greater warmth than private friendship. You now allude to some distant transactions with which I am altogether unacquainted; however, I can gather thus much from your obscure narrative, viz. That Mr. Buxton now loveth, and is beloved by a Man who was formerly his enemy. Mr. Buxton has, it seems a soul disposed to forgive injuries. Tell me, Sir, is this another proof that Mr. Buxton, has deserted the cause of honour and of virtue?

*F I N I S.*